

UNCLASSIFIED

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Page: 1

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 08403 311359Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 NEA-10 /081 W

R 301543Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8371

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 8403

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS ROUND-UP NO. 8

REF: BUENOS AIRES 8239

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release (☐) Excise (☐) Deny

Exemption(s):

Classify: (☐) In Part (☒) In Full *DECLASSIFIED*

(☐) Classify as (☐) Extend as (☐) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

1. THE CATHOLIC INFORMATION SERVICE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE LAST TWO PRIESTS OF THE FOUR DETAINED IN THE SAN MIGUEL RAID EARLIER THIS MONTH WERE RELEASED DECEMBER 24 (SEE REFTTEL); ONE OF THEM, FATHER BERNARDO CANO FEIJOO, FLEW TO PARIS LAST NIGHT (DEC 29). ACCORDING TO CHURCH SOURCES, THERE ARE NOW NO PRIESTS OR MEMBERS OF RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN DETENTION IN ARGENTINA. (A GROUP CALLING ITSELF THE PARENT'S UNION OF SAN MIGUEL SCHOOL PUBLISHED STATEMENT DEC 21 ACCUSING THE SAN MIGUEL PRIESTS OF TEACHING LEFTIST IDEOLOGY IN THE SCHOOL. ON DEC 24 THE LOURDES ORDER, WHICH RUNS THE SCHOOL, DENIED THE CHARGES AND ACCUSED THE PARENTS' GROUP OF SLANDER AND "ATTEMPTING TO PROVOKE A CRISIS BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND STATE.")

2. ACCORDING TO LA OPINION DEC 28, THE THREE CHILDREN, FOUR NIECES AND SISTER-IN-LAW OF SLAIN ERP LEADER MARIO SANTUCHO LEFT FOR CUBA ON DEC 27. THE SANTUCHO FAMILY HAD SOUGHT ASYLUM IN THE CUBAN EMBASSY SEVERAL MONTHS EARLIER. WE ARE STILL TRYING TO VERIFY THE NAMES OF THE SANTUCHOS WHO DEPARTED, AS IT

PAGE 02 BUENOS 08403 311359Z

IS POSSIBLE ONE OF THEM IS MANUELA SANTUCHO, WHO HAS BEEN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1976BUENOS08403

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

SUBJECT OF U.S. INTEREST.

3. A FEDERAL APPEALS COURT UPHELD THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF THE GOVERNMENT TO HOLD PEOPLE INDEFINITELY UNDER THE STATE OF SIEGE IN A DECISION PUBLISHED DEC 21. IN REFUSING A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS FOR SANTIAGO AND ADOLPHO CHOUHY, WHO WERE DETAINED BY DECREE ON JUNE 1, THE JUDGE RULED THAT THEIR DETENTION PERIOD WAS SO FAR NOT EXCESSIVE NOR DID IT CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES. THE JUDGE ALSO OBSERVED THAT ALTHOUGH THE EXECUTIVE ENJOYED EXTRAORDINARY POWERS DURING STATE OF SIEGE, THE JUSTICE SYSTEM ALSO HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ANALYZE AND RULE ON STATE OF SIEGE MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT. (IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT BOTH SANTIAGO AND ADOLFO CHOUHY WERE ON THE DEC 23 LIST OF PERSONS LIBERATED FROM THE DISPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT INDICATE THAT A HABEAS CORPUS ATTEMPT--EVEN IF REFUSED--MAY DO SOME GOOD ANYWAY.)

4. A NEW LIST OF 123 DETAINEES WHO ARE NO LONGER BEING HELD AT THE DISPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE WAS PUBLISHED TODAY (DEC 30). WITH THIS LIST--THE THIRD THIS MONTH--PAPERS REPORT THAT 1,660 PERSONS HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM EXECUTIVE POWER SINCE MARCH 24. A NUMBER IN THE LATEST LIST HAD BEEN DETAINED UNDER STATE OF SIEGE SINCE 1974, ACCORDING TO LA OPINION. THE PAPER DID NOT IDENTIFY THE NAMES, HOWEVER. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE INTERIOR MINISTRY HAS DECIDED TO RELEASE A WEEKLY LIST OF PERSONS FREED FROM EXECUTIVE POWER AND NAMES OF PERSONS WHO ARE BEING DETAINED UNDER STATE OF SIEGE PROVISIONS. (SO FAR, THE MINISTRY HAS NEVER PUBLISHED LISTS OF PERSONS BEING HELD UNDER STATE OF SIEGE OF THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM.)

5. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT RECOGNIZE NAMES ON THE LATEST LIST, WHICH IS BEING POUCHED TO ARA/ECA. HOWEVER, SOURCES REPORT THAT THREE REFUGEES NAMED ON THE DEC 23 LIBERATED (FROM EXECUTIVE POWER) LIST HAVE NOT YET REAPPEARED. WE ARE SEEKING TO IDENTIFY MORE OF THE NAMES AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LISTS. WHETHER

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 08403 311359Z

THE INTERIOR MINISTRY'S PLAN TO RELEASE WEEKLY LISTS OF NAMES WILL FULLY CLEAR UP THE MYSTERY OF THOSE DISAPPEARED AND DETAINED REMAINS TO BE SEEN, ALTHOUGH THE DECISION IS CERTAINLY A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

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Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED